

MILATARI LIMITED EDITION

Volume XI Issue 4 • April 1992 • The Newsletter of choice for Milwaukee Area Atari Enthusiasts since 1981

**"Well we all shine on.
Like the moon, and the stars
and the sun.
Well we all shine on.
Everyone. Come on!"**



- JOHN LENNON

Great words from a great man. Where were you in the Seventies when you first heard "Instant Karma"? I remember being in a car with a friend driving from Port Washington to Milwaukee. The song floored me. That's why my heart sank just recently when I was watching TV and saw Lennon's genius being used to sell, of all things, tennis shoes! Somehow, I don't think that when he wrote the song that was quite what he had in mind! To me "Instant Karma" was Lennon's plea that we wouldn't become so complacent a society that we would allow everything to be done for us, with an optimistic chorus added in for good measure. What's next; "Ticket to Ride" being used as an airline slogan? Let's hope that the powers-that-be come to their senses on this and stop rapping such great work.

Let's get down to business! Last month's meeting was rather interesting. First, Michelle took nominations for the election of MilAtari Officers which will occur next month. All five offices went uncontested except 8-Bit Vice President, which Joe Sliker & Brett Thorson will be competing for. The other four offices and the people that will be on the ballot are: President, Lee Musial; ST Vice President, Bruce Rahlf; Secretary, Dave Glish and Treasurer, Ed Newman. I would at this time like to thank all officers, assistants and volunteers that have taken the time out in the past year to help keep MilAtari on the map. Here's looking at the next year!

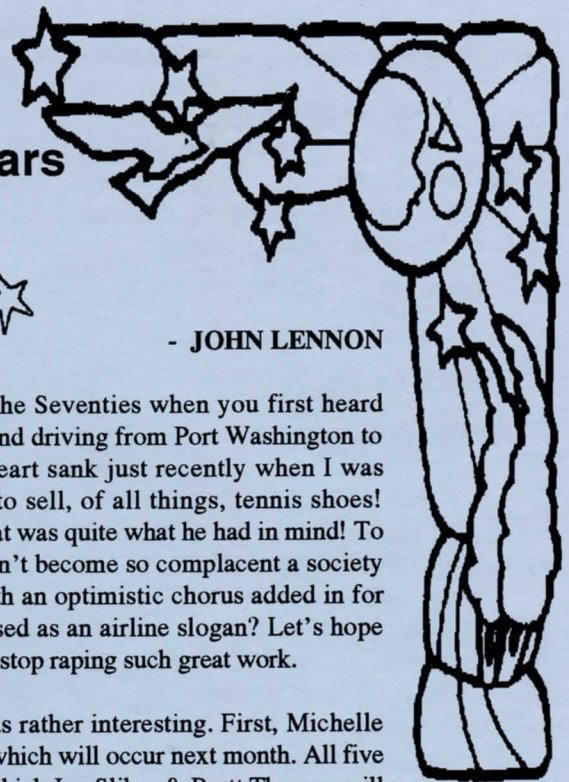
There was also some intriguing discussion during the general meeting about MilAtari becoming a multi-platform computer user group. I found that people were either all for it or completely against it! The main concern of most people is that in time the IBM's, Mac's, Apple's, etc. would push the STs out of our club. Let me promise you that as long as I'm President that scenario will NEVER happen! The Board of Directors will be taking a good hard look at all of this and will be taking things VERY slowly, keeping the membership updated constantly. The fact of the matter is that a lot of you use other computers along with your Atari and have expressed a need for help. So be it, or as Captain Picard would say; make it so!

Is everyone getting on our BBS alright? Rich has been using all of his expertise to get all of the bugs out. The main problem seems to be when the ST first connects with the BBS all that you get is gibberish (line noise). If this happens, please try turning your modem off and re-dialing. Odds are the second time will work like a charm! For some reason the Avatex modems do this more than others. Another common complaint is that once you are connected with the BBS there is a LONG pause, causing some people to think that something is wrong or that we're down and subsequently hang up. The club's 9600 baud modem is actually checking to see what baud your modem is, starting with 9600 baud, then 2400, 1200 etc. The lower the baud rate of your modem, the longer it will take for you to connect. Please keep contacting either Rich, myself or any other Board Member and let us know what's happening! Patience is a virtue!

Anyone who purchased the 8Bit AIM disk last month, please bring it with you to the meeting. Joe was not aware that the disk was double-sided and only gave out side 1. Bring the disk with you and we will be happy to correct it.

Remember, our meeting this month has been moved back a week to the 25th because the Church isn't available due to Easter. Please show up and vote!

Lee



This Month:

General Meeting
Saturday, April 25, NOON
Greenfield Park Lutheran Church
1236 S. 115th St.

Executive Board Meeting
Sunday April 26, 7:00 p.m.
Shakey's
9638 W. National Avenue

NEXT MONTH:

General Meeting
Saturday, May 16

Note change in schedule

What's Inside:

- ☐ More Kid STuff
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- ☐ Chatting With...Ed
Linda Heinrich
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Tom Bardenwerper
- ☐ MilAtari - Do or Die?
- ☐ Atari News & Info



MilAtari Ltd.
P.O. Box 14038
West Allis, WI 53214

Membership

Membership in MilAtari Ltd. is open to all individuals and families interested in computing. Annual dues are \$22.00 per membership and includes a one year subscription to the MilAtari Limited Edition, access to the Publication Library, and allows purchases from all Public Domain Libraries and Resale Shop.

Meetings

MilAtari Meetings are normally held on the third Saturday of each month at Greenfield Park Lutheran Church, 1236 S. 115th St. The doors open at noon. There is an hour milling period for members to socialize while browsing through the Publication Library, and making their purchases from the PD Libraries and Resale shop. We also have a station set up to demonstrate the newest ST PD offerings, or to help members with specific software problems with hands on assistance. The Business meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. Afterwards there are demonstrations of commercial software or small instructional groups form.

Newsletter

The MilAtari Ltd. Edition is published by and for MilAtari Ltd. Opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of MilAtari Ltd., its officers or advertisers, none of which are affiliated in any way with Atari Corp., except where noted otherwise. Submissions are encouraged, and can be sent via the Club BBS, or by making other arrangements with the Editor. All submissions should be in ASCII or WordWriter format please, with NO special formatting such as centered text, tabs, or bold, italics, etc. All submissions are due by the 25th of each month. For information on placing ads, contact the Editor at 628-4435.

MilAtari Ltd. Bulletin Board

MilAtari Ltd. supports a public bulletin board system. Members and non-members alike are welcome to use the service. When applying for a password for first time use, please allow one week for validation. All requested information must be supplied or the SysOp may exercise his right to deny access. Only real names are permitted. If you are having trouble getting on or around in our system, call one of the officers or volunteers listed above.

*MilAtari Ltd. collects 5.5% state and county sales tax on all purchases,
as is required by state law.*

MilAtari Ltd. Officers

President	Lee Musial	462-7557
ST VP	Bruce Rahlf	483-0464
8Bit VP	Joe Sliker	483-7917
Secretary	Dave Glish	784-9053
Treasurer	Ed Newman	628-2556

MilAtari Ltd. Appointed Officers

BBS SysOp	Richard Dankert	251-6326
Cashier	Terri Borchardt	628-4831
Editor	Michelle Gross	628-4435
Pub. Relations	Linda Heinrich	421-2376
8-Bit PD	Michael Koepp	259-0768
ST PD	Dennis Wilson	546-0282
Copyright	Tom Bardenwerper	332-6762
Publications	Help Wanted	

Assistants & Volunteers

Special Events	Dr. Armin Baier	774-1673
ST PD Asst.	Carl Verbanac	453-3940
ST Supp. PD	Bill Janutka	543-7609
ST PDAsst.	Bob Bobinger	466-9341
IBM PD	Tom Bardenwerper	332-6762
Mac PD	Bob Garlock	
Kid's Corner	Chuck Dahms	774-8911
Pub. Asst.	Everett Rantanen	327-4393

Software Review

More Kid Stuff from D.A. Brumleve

by Terri Borchardt

Super Kidgrid and Kidpainter
D.A. Brumleve
\$25 and \$35

Superkidgrid and Kidpainter are somewhat similar programs, and they complement each other very nicely. If your child likes to draw, color, do puzzles, and play with colors and shapes, these programs are for you. As in all D.A. Brumleve programs, you may make as many copies as you like for all family members, or in the case of a school that purchases the program, all the students. You may also customize each copy so it meets the needs of the child who will be using it. The choices include the number of pictures able to be saved in memory, whether or not to allow the child to print pictures, to exit to desktop, to auto load, and in Kidpainter, if you want to allow mirroring function and stamp making capabilities. The support to users from Brumleve is outstanding. I sent in the owners registration card after I purchased Kidpainter, and I wrote that we were enjoying the program so far, but I was having some difficulty getting it to print out. Within a week, I received a disk of printer drivers in the mail and was able to print out pictures. Thank you Dorothy!

Super Kidgrid is a graphics design program for children ages 3-11. It features a grid of triangles that can be filled with any of 14 colors. The child uses a mouse to select colors and fill the triangles, either by holding the mouse button down to achieve a "flow paint" effect, or by clicking on each triangle separately. In addition to designing his own picture, the child can print one of 12 sample pictures, or he can alter the sample to achieve a modified original.

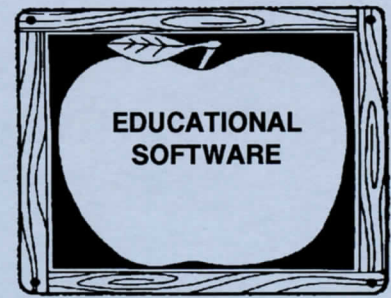
The print option creates a color-by-number version of the picture, complete with a list of colors and numbers.

"The support to users from Brumleve is outstanding."

Kidpainter is a drawing program for children ages 5-11 that has some unusual and fun features. Besides freehand drawing, it offers circles, boxes and several patterns and colors that can be used to fill in enclosed shapes. It also has a stampmaker option that is fun to use. It features a miniature drawing screen and once the child finishes the picture, he can place it anywhere on the screen as if it were a rubber stamp; or he can tell the computer to fill the entire screen with stamps. Many children like to use the resulting picture with the puzzle maker option, another unique feature. When this option is chosen the screen is divided into a 15 section grid and the mouse arrow is

replaced by a rectangle from the drawing. The child places the rectangle where he thinks it belongs, and if correct, the computer places the piece in the grid and a new puzzle piece appears. This continues until the puzzle is complete. The computer also scores the child's effort and congratulates him when the puzzle is solved. A third option that is rather unusual is the mirroring function. When chosen, the child can draw and the computer creates corresponding lines and shapes "mirroring" what he is drawing. The mirroring will be horizontal, vertical, or both, depending on which function key is chosen.

Both my children, especially the six year old, enjoy using these programs, and I confess that I like messing around with them too. One of these days I'm going to design a quilt with Kidgrid! I especially like the flexibility of these programs, and the possibilities for creativity that they offer. The ability to print out the pictures adds a dimension that I appreciate - a kind of bridge from computer to real life.



MILATARI LTD BBS

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Member Profile

CHATTING WITH....

Ed



This is the first in a series of articles focusing on our members' use of their Atari computers. If you would like to share your experiences, or know of a fellow member who uses their computer in an interesting or unusual way, give me a call or leave e-mail on the club BBS.

Ed Newman, MilAtari's current treasurer, is still enthusiastic when it comes to computing. He uses an IBM at work and says, "I appreciate Atari's ease in getting from one program into another. It's basically point and click. I personally would not buy an IBM for home use."

Ed joined MilAtari in 1987, about six months after buying his ST. He has used his computer in a variety of ways including creating two different cookbooks. "I made a family cookbook of my mom's best recipes. There were over

one hundred." He gave them as special Christmas presents to other family members. He also compiled a cookbook for his daughter Lisa's gymnastic's group. He used Wordwriter, Data Manager and Printmaster.

His newest project? He is going back to his "roots" and devising a family tree. The software for that endeavor is "Generation Gap" by Flying Pig Software.

Phasar is the program Ed utilizes the most as Treasurer. "It's a good way of managing your expenses on computer, mostly your checkbook. It gives nice readouts, It gives me the percentage of use." That can be a valuable tool when keeping complicated financial records.

The PD Library has also been assessed in this way. Why? "So we know how many disks we are selling and what appeals to

people. Dennis (Wilson) has an idea of what people want to buy."

Ed's main hobby is computing and he spends a lot of time modeming. He subscribes to Genie, Exec PC, and The Lens, an auto CAD BBS he uses at work. He is not a gamer. His daughter, Laura, who is also very active in MA, takes up the slack for him in that department.

What has he found rewarding in belonging to MilAtari? "Meeting a lot of people that have the same interests as I have. But we need people to come forward to volunteer, to show what their areas of interest are for SIGS"

How about a SIG for Phasar, Ed???

by
Linda Heinrich

MICRO MAGIC INC.

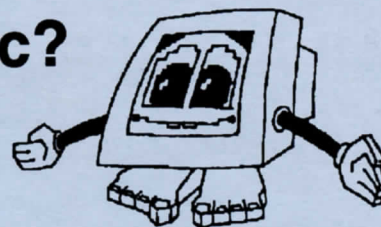
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Are You a Computaholic?



*The following was partially derived from an article that appeared in the February 1992 issue of the Mid-Florida Atari Computer Club Bulletin, which was reprinted from the StarBoard Journal of the FlagShip/StarShip, SIGS on Delphi and GENie. The questions were written by MAT*RAT, CFJ, RABBIT, and yours truly.*

Are you a Computaholic? Many of us, and our spouses are, without even knowing it....(can you believe that?) Below are some questions you can ask yourself, or your better half, and then check your answers with the key at the end of the article.

Do you buy disks in lots of 100?
Do you use more than a case of computer paper a year?
Do you have personalized license plates similar to any of the following:

CPU-HED
MEG-4ME
GIG-BYT
BLITER
11T-RAM
68000
BIT-BYT

Do you own more than \$3000 worth of "home computer" equipment?
Can you type faster than 70 words per minute?
Every time you pass a computer, typewriter, or anything with keys on it, do you get an irresistible urge to type on it?
Have you ever woken up at 3 a.m. face down on your computer keyboard?
Have you ever realized that you forgot to go to bed when the alarm goes off, while sitting in front of the keyboard?
Do you subscribe to more than one COMPUTER magazine?
Do you have a computer ROOM in your house?

Do you take computer books or magazines with you to the doctor's office, dentist, or barber?
Do you take them with you to the toilet?
Have you worn the letters off your keyboard?
Do your kids use your bad disks for frisbees?
Do you use your bad disks for coasters?
Do you own more than one computer?
Do you own a shirt-pocket pencil holder?
Do your neighbors ever call the FBI because of the strange glow emanating from one room in your house all night long?
Do you celebrate COMDEX as a national holiday?
Do you travel with a computer?
Does a newly discovered BBS become the highlight of your day?
Do you belong to a user group?
Do you belong to two user groups?
Do you belong to three or more user groups?
Do you visit other user groups on the weekends that your local user group is not meeting?
Have your old, non computer user friends become dull and boring?

Do your friends and family complain about strange high pitched noises when your telephone line finally isn't busy? Do you tell them that it must be something the telephone company is doing on your line?

Now go ahead and count all the yes answers to the above questions. If you had less than 10 positive answers, let this be a warning! You are in serious danger of becoming a computaholic. It is time to curb your computing habits lest you become even deeper in trouble. Symptoms such as your spouse showing signs of irritation and frequent over-sleeping usually occur at the end of this phase of your illness. If you responded yes to between 10 and 20 of the questions, you have been diagnosed as being a computaholic. Get help now! Find your local chapter of computaholics anonymous. Your computer addiction is ruining your life....but it is not too late to seek the cure. Those of you who answered positively to more than 20 questions...you are beyond all hope of cure and rehabilitation. Enjoy your affliction while it lasts.

(speaking of computaholics)

MilAtari Ltd. Election 1992-1993 Nominees

President - Lee Musial

ST VP - Bruce Rahlf

***8-Bit VP - Joe Sliker**

Secretary - Dave Glish

Treasurer - Ed Newman

*Please note: although Brett Thorson was nominated for 8-bit VP, it was later determined that due to his age (15) he is not eligible to hold an elected position.

Hardware

All About Printers

by Michelle Gross

A few months ago I promised I'd write an article about printers. Somehow we got sidetracked, but I'm back to share my experiences on this subject. As always, I do not claim to be an expert in this field, so anything I say can and should be considered to be "another users opinion."

Printers are, like everything else, made for a variety of needs. In choosing a printer for your home use, those needs must be assessed. Are you looking for a printer to print out text files or simple graphic applications like banners? Do you need a quality print for business and personal letters? Is speed a concern? Will you be getting into desktop publishing to any degree?

Printers fall into three main categories: dot matrix, inkjets, and lasers. Each category has its own subgroup, as in 9 and 24 pin dot matrix printers. Despite the popularity of the laser printer to date, 9 pin printers still have their place in our computer society.

Dot matrix printers are still widely in use for a variety of reasons. The main reason is price: a good dot matrix is a fraction of the cost of the cheapest laser, and half the cost of a 300dpi inkjet. Besides initial cost, the dot matrix is much more affordable to run in terms of ribbons and paper, and has its own niche in the computer market. For the business owner, the cost of continuous feed checks versus laser checks makes the dot matrix the only choice. Also cost prohibitive are laser labels. A box of 5000 pin feed mailing labels are widely available for under \$10.00, less than 1/4 the price of the 3 across labels for the laser.

Many users find the 24 pin dot matrix printers to be highly satisfactory for near

letter quality printing. The newest 24 pin printers on the market have pretty much killed the daisywheel printer of recent days gone by. The fussiest of users beam upon seeing the print quality and variety of fonts found on today's models. For the average user, the price is very affordable. A popular 24 pin printer, the Panasonic 1124i can be found for \$250 (and less) locally.

Inkjet models are pressing the dot matrix market, as prices fall and features rise with the newest models. The inkjet is similar to a laser in quality and speed, but at 1/2 to 1/3 the cost. The savings in cost means an decrease in speed, however if time is not a problem for you, you may wish to consider the inkjet market.

For those of you with which speed and quality is a must, as well as desktop publishing enthusiasts, the laser is the solution. Laser printers are quickly making their way into homes as prices plummet on older entry models, and newer ones make their way to store shelves. Now is a great time to pick up some bargains on discontinued models.

Laser printers are rated in a couple of very interesting ways that you should be aware of before making any decisions. First, you will be greeted with the speed rating of "pages per minute." I have found this to be a very misleading fact. A laser printer is built the same as your office copier, which is also rated in pages per minute (ppm). In the case of an office copy machine, ppm is a useful gage in determining speed. Your copier is used most often to pump out a number, usually a substantial number of copies of the same page. Not so with your laser, even though it is rated in the same manner. Normally you will print out one copy

from your laser, then take it to the copier or local print shop to make the multiple copies from your lasered original.

What is most important, and never supplied, is the number of minutes it takes for the laser to spit out the initial copy. Unfortunately, it is impossible to rate the initial page print out as it depends on a number of variables: available memory, program used, number of graphics on page, etc. However, I have personally found that the time to print out varies widely with laser printers. Those lasers that use the Motorola 68000 seem to process data more quickly, thus speeding up print time.

"The use of dumb laser technology is the smartest thing Atari ever did."

The number of fonts onboard is usually the second concern to the consumer. Again, I have found this to be of little value to me, but then my interests lie in desktop publishing. A user who is only printing text files may want to have a number of fonts to choose from on the laser. But then again, most people who print strictly text files would normally stick with the 24 pin market.

Fonts are funny things; you just can't seem to ever get enough of them. For desktop publishing the fonts are within your program, so there is absolutely no need to have any fonts in the laser printer. Since most lasers are really aimed at the desktop market, I don't really understand why you would want to consider built-in fonts when making a purchase. Even more strange is that I have also found on the word processor I use on the job on a MS-DOS machine, the fonts within the word processor override the laser fonts! If you do purchase a laser for word processing, check to see if the program will even allow you to use the fonts in the laser. I have yet to see (other than the Atari) a laser printer on the market with no fonts onboard, so regardless of whether or not you'll be using them, you're going to get them. I am only

continued on page 10

PUBLIC DOMAIN UPDATE

MilAtari Ltd. St Public Domain Library Disks are available at the meeting at a price of \$3.50 per disk, and through mail order at \$4.00 per disk. Special package prices may also be in effect at club meetings for certain disks or quantities of disks. The charge for the disks covers the cost of the media and handling, with all proceeds going to support the activities of MilAtari Ltd.

Some of the programs on these disks have been released as shareware and are so documented in the programs themselves. MilAtari Ltd. supports the shareware concept and you are encouraged to make donations to the individual authors should you find their programs useful.

The MilAtari PD Libraries are intended to provide a repository for useful and interesting programs, and each file is tested before inclusion on the disk. We believe that each file is worthy of your consideration. No warranty is expressed nor implied, however, as to their content or usability. Defective disks will be gladly replaced. These disks are made available for sale at the monthly club meeting and may be ordered in advance by posting a message in the Library Lounge on the club BBS. Librarians of other clubs are encouraged to contact our ST Librarian concerning trading of programs in their respective libraries.

ST PD

Dennis Wilson

DISK 361 - UTILITY DISK

ST Writer V4.5

The complete program, including the Spanish version, of the finest PD word processor for the Atari ST & TT computers. Changes since V4.0 include: 1) Allows selection of 3 font sizes in TT Med and TT High resolutions, and 2 sizes in ST High and TT Low, 2) The STWRITER.PRG file may now be modified to hold your default settings for screen color on bootup, tab setting, default file extender, and format line settings, 3) Increased compatibility with Atariwriter+, 4) Compatibility with the STe has been added, and 5) Support for the Moniterm Monitor. In addition, there have been many bug fixes added.

Sudden View Text Editor Demo

Sudden View is an accessory. It is more than a text editor, less than a word processor, and works in a totally different manner than either one. It is not verbal and logical, it is visual and virtual. While this sounds a bit Zen, but while Sudden View does have some logical commands, it's real strength comes from it's continuous virtual control. It's the difference between art and science. Sudden View is the first tool for the ART of editing words. The program will load in various word processing formats, but saves out only in ASCII. It's main

virtue, in my opinion, is that it is FAST, and I do mean FAST. If you want something to let you move about extremely quickly in a long document, this is the program for it.

DISK 362 - GAME DISK

Jeopardy by Dave Burns V.3

Apparently the third version of this PD version of the popular game. Four game files are included.

Maze

A first person maze game reminiscent of Midi Maze. The game features 1) Split screen 2-player action, 2) You can play TAG or SHOOT, 3) Very fast MACHINE CODE graphics in 3D, 3) Full feature maze editor, 4) Six minutes of high quality music, 5) An impressive introduction sequence, 6) Incredibly fast, full screen maze, 7) Test feature (from editor), 8) A set of pre-set mazes, and 9) The facility to load and save your own maze designs.

Poker Dice

A computer version of this popular bar game. Up to 5 players can play. Excellent graphics and sound. Some speech is included.

Wolfchild

A demo of a side-view, scrolling arcade game. In this one, you change into a werewolf at times.

Don't forget to



visit our snack bar!

ST Supplemental

Bill Janutka

DISK 057, 058, 059, & 060 DEMO, PICTURE ANIMATIONS (DS 1MEG COLOR)

Each of these disks contains a number of full screen animations and a player program which allows running the animations at from five to sixty frames per second. The pictures are in the .FLM format and use up a lot of memory. A number of the animations have been compressed into self extracting files in order to get more onto the disks. Disk 057 has a rotating threaded bolt, a fish in a bowl with a buzzing bee, a starburst, a spider climbing his web, and a starburst in a Magellanic cloud. Disk 058 has a man peddling a flying machine, a star moving into a black hole, and a rider peddling a strange unicycle. Disk 059 has a rotating shotgun slug moving across the screen, a coiled tube with a ball moving through it, and a strange mermaid (part woman and part lionfish). Disk 060 has a spotlight following the flight of a butterfly, a two legged robot like in Starwars, and two pains of glass being shattered by a stone.

IBNI PD

April Showers bring...

Tom Bardenwerper

MilAtari IBM Library Disk #013

FLOORPLN (Directory) Supports:
Hercules, CGA

FLOOR.EXE

Floorplan is a computer aided design program for creating, as you may have guessed, floor plans. The program is keyboard and mouse driven and is simple to learn to use. Its primary feature is a library of shapes and symbols. Walls, chairs, desks, doors, beds, couches, etc. are all available for use.

LOUDSPKR (Directory) Supports:
Hercules, CGA, EGA, VGA

SD-LMP.EXE

LMP is a computer program designed to model 2-way loudspeaker systems. The resulting frequency and phase response curves predict the on-axis sound pressure level produced by the interaction of your choice of crossover, drivers and enclosure design. LMP assumes that the impedance curve of the drivers in the modeled system have been made reasonably flat by way of Zobel and/or impedance correcting networks. LMP also assumes that the drivers modeled have a flat frequency response from the low frequency roll-off point to the high frequency roll-off point. Quality drivers on the market today meet this criteria. LMP assumes that the user has had some experience with loudspeaker systems and crossover networks and is familiar with the terminology commonly used to describe the various parameters involved.

MilAtari IBM Library Disk #014

CLEAN86 (Directory) Supports:
Hercules, CGA, EGA, VGA

CLEAN.EXE

This is the latest version of McAfee's popular virus clean program. CLEAN-UP (CLEAN) is a virus disinfection program for IBM PC and compatible computers. CLEAN-UP will search through the partition table, boot sector, or files of a PC and remove a virus specified by the user. In most instances CLEAN-UP is able to repair the infected area of the system and restore it to normal usage. CLEAN-UP works on all viruses identified by the current version of the VIRUSCAN (SCAN) program. CLEAN-UP can also remove unknown viruses from .COM and .EXE files, partition table, and boot sector that have had recovery information stored for them by the VIRUSCAN program. CLEAN-UP runs on any PC with 256Kb and DOS 2.00 or above.

MCDEMO (Directory) Supports:
Hercules, CGA, EGA, VGA

MCDEMO.EXE

This is a demo of the commercial program Mathcad. It is full featured program that is very popular for college students, technicians and engineers. This demo version has a fully animated introduction to using the program and also has an excellent animated tutorial. The demo has a mini operating portion of the real program allowing you to calculate formulas but does not allow you to save anything.

SCAN86 (Directory) Supports:
Hercules, CGA, EGA, VGA

SCAN86.EXE

This is the latest version of McAfee's popular virus scan program. VIRUSCAN (SCAN) is a virus detection and identification program for the IBM PC and compatible computers. VIRUSCAN will search a PC for known computer viruses in memory, the boot sector, the partition table, and the files of a PC and its disks. VIRUSCAN can also detect the presence of unknown viruses. SCAN works by searching the system for instruction sequences unique to each computer virus, and then reporting their presence when found. This method works for viruses that VIRUSCAN recognizes. SCAN can detect unknown viruses in files and boot sector by appending validation (CRC) codes to .COM and .EXE files and then checking the files against their codes for changes, warning that an infection may have occurred if the file has been modified in any way. An enhanced validation mode is available that will save and check information that can be used by CLEAN-UP to restore infected files, the partition table, or the boot sector of a disk in case of an infection by an unknown virus. SCAN can also check for new viruses from a user-supplied list of virus search strings. VIRUSCAN runs on any PC with 256Kb and DOS version 2.00 or above.

A Column of Personal Opinion

MilAtari - Do or Die?

Michelle Gross

MilAtari has reached a crucial moment in time. Important decisions must be made that will affect our club's future for years to come, in fact these decisions could decide whether there is a future at all for MilAtari Ltd.

Those of you who attended the last meeting know that there was discussion about evolving into a multi-platform group. Many of us are moving on to different platforms, or expanding to other operating systems without abandoning the Atari. Help is needed for many of us who are having difficulties on these other platforms, and/ or there is a desire to

socialize with users of other systems within our own comfortable boundary of the club we've come to know so well.

While an evolution into a multi-platform group may seem to be a natural and pleasant change, for some users it smells of death to Atari support as we know it within our group. Both views are understandable and should be carefully considered. Each viewpoint should also be respected, and we should work towards a common good for all members.

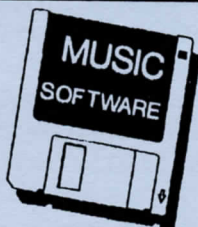
But we must not forget our roots, our purpose in banding together monthly, and

hold our vision of the future. Have we resigned ourselves to the "fact" that the Atari line of computers is a losing proposition? Have we done all that we can to seek out existing Atari owners, and encourage growth on the local scene? Have we done our share within our group to foster the use and knowledge of the Atari computer?

Have we closed our eyes to the progress Atari is now making? Are we ignoring, or "pooh-poohing" the new software being developed here and abroad for the STe and TT models? Have we not noticed the resurgence of magazines for the Atari line: Atari User, Atari Advantage, Radical Type..... And are we ignoring the advertising now being done in major publications such as Discover?

Is it just too late for the Atarian; is it time to move on and bid a fond farewell?

What will it be fellow Atarian? Our fate is in our hands.



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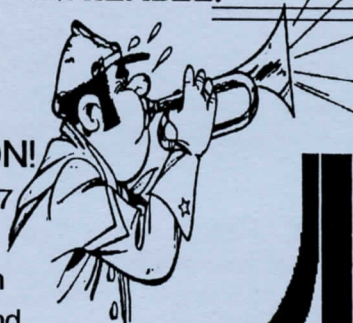
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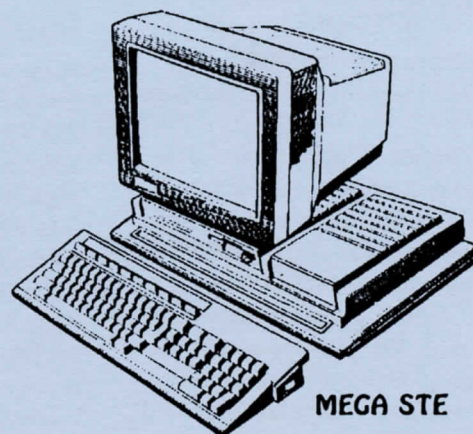
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ATARI NEWS AND INFORMATION

Z*Net Issue #92-14 April 3, 1992

NEW TOUCH-UP COMING FROM MIGRAPH

Users of Mega STe and TT computers have had to disable their caches to use the current Touch-Up software (version 1.69). The problem has shown itself in the inability to scan an image without stray repetitions, like vivid shadows, around all images scanned with the cache in the normal position. The interim fix is simply to disable the cache before scanning. According to Migraph, a new version (1.8) of the Touch-Up scanning and editing software will be released in May. While details are not available yet, the marked increase in version number may indicate considerable improvements and new features. Watch Z*Net for more info as it becomes available.

SALES-PRO VERSION 6.10

The popular and powerful point-of-sale and inventory control system for the Atari ST has been updated by Hi-Tech Advisors. New features of Version 6.10 include 3 different payment types, more sorts on customer lists, displayed receivables balances, plus many other features, more speed, and bug fixes. Sales-Pro comes in many configurations starting as low as \$99. Owners of older

ABOUT PRINTERS from page 6

pointing out the items to look for and consider when making a printer purchase.

Of major concern to the consumer is the memory in the laser printer. For any graphic work at all 2 megs are necessary, 4 is recommended. Even for straight text printing, I would recommend 1 meg minimum. I think it is silly to have a computer with 2 megs of memory and a printer with another 2 megs of memory. It seems to be a very wasteful set up. I'd much rather have all the memory in one place, but this is the way of the computer industry.

versions should contact Hi-Tech for upgrade information. P.O. Box 128, Ravena, NY 12143-0128, phone 518-756-3800.

FALCON UNDER WRAPS

Although some information about the new line of Atari products has filtered out in the past few weeks - Atari still remains closed mouthed about its new Falcon. Dealers and Developers signing non-disclosures may be party to some new info at the Toronto show - but no promises. Rumour has it that Atari has approached third party developers for the MS-DOS emulation add-ons. Right now you will see a lot of smoke and no fire until late fall.

ATARI COMES IN THIRD

In the February 10th 1992 issue of the Canadian Computer Dealer News Atari came in third right behind IBM and Apple for overall sales in Canada. IBM and Apple came in at 10.6 respectively while Atari came in at 3.2 of the market. Commodore didn't even make mention in the list while Compac and Tandy came in at 3.1.

ATARI ADVANTAGE SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

The pre-production special offer of 12 issues for \$11.00 has been extended until

April 30, 1992. This offer is only good by mail. Atari Advantage Magazine P.O. Box 803 Merlin, OR 97532 (503) 476-3578

GRANDSLAM, GRAMMAR EXPERT UPDATES ANNOUNCED

Phil Comeau Software is pleased to announce the release of new versions of GramSlam and Grammar Expert for the Atari computer line. GramSlam checks documents for common grammar and writing-style problems. Grammar Expert is an online reference for the rules of English grammar, punctuation, and effective writing.

A limited but working demonstration of Grammar Expert has been released for general availability on GENie and CompuServe. A working demonstration of GramSlam has been publically available since its release in January 1991.

The prices of the two products remain the same: \$39.95 for GramSlam, and \$59.95 for Grammar Expert. Registered owners of either product can receive upgrades from Phil Comeau Software for \$5.00 per product plus \$3.00 for packaging and shipping. For more information, contact Phil Comeau Software div. of Wintertree Software Inc. 43 Rueter St. Nepean, Ontario Canada K2J 3Z9 (613) 825-6271

In Atariville, the SLM605 "dumb" laser is an option. Dumb lasers are those with no brains or memory...in computer jargon that's processors and RAM. With the Atari laser all the processing of a printed page is done in the computer's registers, then when done it is dumped to the printer for immediate print results. The use of dumb laser technology is the smartest thing Atari ever did. Why this hasn't caught on with the rest of the world is a mystery to me. Atari's laser technology makes the Atari the fastest desktop printing operation in the world today. For those of us who have come to value time, that makes the Atari laser one big contender for my home system.

Finally, laser printer specs will include emulations. The "standard" is Hewlett-Packard, and virtually all lasers will include this emulation or it will be the only emulation mode it offers. All your present software will come with HP printer drivers, so do not worry needlessly that because we are Atarians we have been left out of yet another market. You can safely assume that any laser (except of course the Apples) can plug and play, as easy or easier than any dot matrix printer you have owned.

I hope this has given you an overview of the printers available, and the main benefits of each type..

OUR BACK PAGES

MilAtari Personals

Members may place an ad in the personals free of charge for any computer related item. The fee for non-members is \$5 per ad, per month, for a standard 1" ad. To place your ad, contact the Editor voice, or via e-mail on the BBS.

YOUR AD CAN GO HERE!

New Members for March

Flora Cochingyan
Mark Janhnke
Mark Salewsky
John Dolk
Michael Brus
Lee Schlund

Welcome to MilAtari!

Membership Dues How far does a buck go?

Each year MilAtari spends the following amount on each member for club benefits:

Newsletter	\$19.12
Rent	\$ 7.70
Postage	\$ 5.15
BBS	\$ 4.60
TOTAL.....	\$36.57

With dues set at a mere \$22 per year, MilAtari membership is the STeal of the century!!!

Renew your membership today!



50 Ways to Support Your local Atari User Group!

1. Write a review (you knew that would be first!)
2. Do a demo
3. Run for office
4. Bring your questions
5. Post a message on your BBS
6. Renew your membership
7. Buy club pd
8. Download STuff for your pd librarian
9. Run a SIG
10. Assist an officer
11. Bring a friend to a meeting
12. Attend a SIG
13. Frequent the club's advertisers
14. Donate your magazines
15. Attend club meetings and functions...

to be continued...

AIM Subscription Offer

Subscribe to AIM, Atari Interface Magazine, for the low, low, rate of \$6.00 per year. This special subscription rate is only available to members of participating user groups (that's us!).

Sign up at the April meeting, (or any meeting) or call Bruce Rahlf for more information 483-0464.

Current Notes offers User Group Members a Discount

Subscribe to current notes for a discount rate by mentioning that you are a member of MilAtari. Rates and ordering info can be found in the latest issue of Current Notes.

AtariUser

Don't forget to pick up your free issue at the meeting!

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